



COMMUNITY NEWS

Via Linda District

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Holiday Safety Tips

It's that time of year again when holiday spirit is all around us. We see it in the form of decorative lights and brightly wrapped gifts. We see beautifully dressed Christmas trees glittering through living room windows. We see shoppers weighed down with bags of freshly purchased treasures. We see families commuting to and from religious celebrations. We see people ringing bells and collecting change. We enjoy these holiday visions and have come to expect them from year to year.

Unfortunately, we are not the only ones keeping a keen eye on all this holiday cheer. Burglars enjoy the holiday season, too. This is their time of year. They have time to plan their crimes while the rest of us hurry from place to place. Please take time to stay safe during this holiday season and keep alert to criminals who will take advantage of any opportunity presented to them.

Holiday Shopping:



Consider shopping during daylight hours. Park your vehicle in a well lit area and one that is near people – not parked so far away that you would be alone if approached by a criminal.

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From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

Happy Holidays

On December 16th, we will be holding a Community Event to include document shredding and prescription/over the counter drug collection for disposal, at the unoccupied car dealership on the corner of Pima and McDowell.

As the shredding of personal documents has become more popular you probably know that criminals are looking for documents that have your personal information so they can commit fraud. Were you aware however that 1 in 5 teens are abusing prescription drugs? The most common source of the "Opioids" that are being abused is the medicine cabinet of parents and grandparents.

The most dangerous part of this growing epidemic is that opioids such as OxyContin, affect the Central Nervous System. An overdose can lead to respiratory failure and abusers often times die in their sleep. These drugs are extremely addictive and very difficult to get off of without professional help.

The important thing to take away from this is to know what prescription drugs are in your home and what quantities they are in. They should be secured at all times. If they are no longer needed or expired please take advantage of the service we will be providing on the 16th. Proper disposal is beneficial to the environment, but more importantly keeps these drugs out of the wrong hands.

Commander Burl Haenel
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Don't weigh yourself down with packages and make sure you have your keys ready when you return to your car. If you must return to the store after delivering packages to your car, make sure the packages are out of view from anyone walking by your car (preferably secured in the trunk). Keep in mind that criminals may be lurking in parking lots, watching, and waiting for an opportunity.

Remember, a vehicle can be broken into within seconds. Store items out of view.

Keep in mind that it takes very little time for a criminal to act on an opportunity.

Holiday Home Safety:



Our homes are where we relax. Relaxing is good, but we can never relax our security efforts. By staying diligent we can take opportunities away from criminals and help keep our homes and neighborhoods safe.

Lock, Lock, Lock...your doors and windows. Last year the majority of burglaries were accomplished without force. Meaning the burglars simply walked into places and took what they wanted. The doors or windows were not locked.

Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. A holiday problem can occur when exterior holiday light extension cords are run inside through a window and prevent it from being secured.

Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it's easily visible from the street. It's too tempting for a potential criminal to smash the window and grab the wrapped packages. Or plan a later break-in based on their earlier observation.

Don't advertise ...Burglars look for occupancy cues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, mail, or advertising flyers hanging on the door knob. Don't post your family name on your mailbox or on your house. A burglar can call directory assistance to get your telephone number and call your residence while in front of your house to confirm that you are gone.

Use an inexpensive light timer when you are away and ask a neighbor to pick up your newspapers and mail. Ask them to put your trash out.

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Don't leave descriptive telephone answering machine messages like, "You've reached the Wilson's...we're away skiing for the holidays...please leave a message." Bad guys love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.

After the holidays, don't pile up empty gift boxes from your new computer, DVD player, or stereo receiver on the street for the garbage man. Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive items inside for them to steal. Break the boxes down or cut them up to conceal the items better.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Kory Sneed at 480-312-5696, email: ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District Police Aide Terri Terlazzo at 480-312-8292, email: tterlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Upcoming Events

Shredding and Drug Collection for Disposal Event:
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009 – 7:30am to 10:30am at the southwest corner of Pima/McDowell Rd. Please bring a donation of cash, non-perishable food or clothing to benefit Vista Del Camino.

Railroad Park lights go live Friday:
More than 100,000 lights will adorn trees and displays during McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park's Holiday Lights event. **Festivities kick off at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, with tree lighting, entertainment and a visit from a special guest – Santa! Holiday Lights runs from 6:30 to 9 p.m. through Saturday, Jan. 2, excluding Dec. 24, 25 and 31.** Santa will be there nightly through Dec. 23. If you'd like more information, call (480) 312-2312.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817